

**Standard 5-5:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the social, economic, and political events that influenced the United States during the Cold War era.

5.5.5 Explain the political alliances and policies that impacted the United States in the latter part of the twentieth century, including the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). (P, H, E, G)

**Taxonomy Level:** B 2 Understand/Conceptual Knowledge

**Previous/future knowledge:** All concepts associated with the political alliances and policies in the latter half of the twentieth century are new for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

In 7th grade, students will summarize the political and economic transformation of Western and Eastern Europe after World War II, including the significance of the Truman Doctrine, the Marshall Plan, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, the Warsaw Pact, and the European Economic Community (EEC) (7-6.1).

In Global Studies students will summarize the impact of economic and political interdependence on the world, including efforts to control population growth, economic imbalance and social inequality and efforts to address them, the significance of the world economy for different nations, and the influence of terrorist movements on politics in various countries (GS 6.4).

In United States History, students will summarize key events in United States foreign policy from the end of the Reagan administration to the present, including changes to Middle East policy, the impact of United States involvement in the Persian Gulf, and the rise of global terrorism (USHC-10.1). Students will also summarize key economic issues in the United States since the fall of communist states, including recession, the national debt and deficits, legislation affecting organized labor and labor unions, immigration, and increases in economic disparity (USHC-10.2).

**It is essential for students to know:**

**Political alliances** and policies impacted the United States during the latter part of the twentieth century. As a result of World War II, many nations wanted to avoid war in the future. Representatives from 50 nations met to establish a new organization called the **United Nations**. The purpose of the United Nations is to find peaceful solutions to international issues. The United Nations provides a forum for debating world issues and a means for policing local conflicts. The United Nations includes a General Assembly and the Security Council. Permanent members of the Security Council were the allies of World War II.

The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** is a military alliance that was originally established in response to the growing threat of the Soviet Union following World War II. The original members included Western European nations, the United States and Canada but membership has grown to 26 nations including Eastern European nations formerly part of the Soviet block. Each member of NATO agreed to defend each other should the Soviet Union attack. In most cases, the United States seeks the support of NATO and/or the United Nations before becoming directly involved in international conflicts.

As a nation, the United States relies on a large amount of oil. The United States must import a good amount of this oil from other countries. **OPEC, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries**, was organized by the nations of the world who produce petroleum products. This organization plays a major role in determining the rate of petroleum production as well as the price of their products. The United States must work together with OPEC to ensure that Americans receive the petroleum products

necessary to sustain our level of usage. The energy crisis of the 1970s was evidence of the necessary cooperation between these entities.

**It is not essential for students to know:**

Students do not need to know the specific countries associated with NATO, the United Nations, or OPEC. Students do not need to know the specific date of origin of each organization or the location of its headquarters. They do not need to know any specific regions of the world in which these organizations have recently operated. They do not need to know that NATO was developed in response to the testing by the USSR of an atomic bomb or that the Soviets then established their own alliance system, known as the Warsaw Pact.

**Assessment guidelines:** The objective of this indicator is to **explain** the effects of the political alliances and policies that impacted the United States in the latter part of the twentieth century; therefore, the primary focus of assessment should be to **construct** cause and effect models of the various ways that the United States was and continues to be affected by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations, and the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

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